

What is claimed is:

1. A connector adapted for use with an associated fluid line, said connector comprising:

a connector body having a passage dimensioned to receive the associated fluid line;

a capturing member supported on said connector body and suitable for retaining the associated fluid line in said passage;

a sealing member disposed within said passage and suitable for forming a fluid-tight seal between said connector body and the associated fluid line;

a stiffening member disposed within said connector body along said passage; and,

an indicator adapted to indicate that the associated fluid line has been received a predetermined distance into said passage.

2. A connector according to claim 1, wherein said stiffening member has a sleeve portion and a flange portion, and said indicator is provided on said stiffening member along at least one of said sleeve portion and said flange portion.

3. A connector according to claim 2, wherein said indicator includes a window extending through said stiffening member.

4. A connector according to claim 3, wherein said window has a substantially rectangular peripheral shape.

5. A connector according to claim 1, wherein said capturing member includes a radially inwardly extending annular tooth suitable for engaging the associated fluid line.

6. A connector according to claim 5, wherein said capturing member includes a frustoconical external wall.

7. A connector according to claim 6, wherein said connector body includes a frustoconical internal wall portion cooperable with said frustoconical external wall of said capturing member.

8. A connector adapted for use with an associated fluid line having an inside wall and an outside wall, said connector comprising:

a connector body having a passage extending therethrough, said passage dimensioned to receive the associated fluid line;

a capturing member supported on said connector body and suitable for retaining the associated fluid line in said passage;

a sealing member disposed within said passage and suitable for forming a fluid-tight seal between said connector body and the outside wall of the associated fluid line;

a stiffening member disposed within said passage and at least a portion of said stiffening member is dimensioned to be received within the inside wall of the associated fluid line; and,

an indicator disposed within said connector body and adapted to indicate that the associated fluid line has been received a predetermined distance into said passage.

9. A connector according to claim 8, wherein said stiffening member has a flange portion and a sleeve portion.
10. A connector according to claim 9, wherein said indicator is at least partially disposed along one of said flange portion and said sleeve portion.
11. A connector according to claim 10, wherein said indicator includes a window extending through said stiffening member.
12. A connector according to claim 8, wherein said connector body has a first body portion and a second body portion, and said passage extends at least partially through each of said first and second portions.
13. A connector according to claim 12, wherein said first body portion includes a shoulder disposed along said passage.
14. A connector according to claim 12, wherein said second body portion has an axially extending projection adapted to support an associated sheath of the fluid line.
15. A connector according to claim 8, wherein said capturing member includes a frustoconical outer wall and a plurality of radially inwardly extending annular teeth adapted for engaging the outer surface of the associated fluid line.

16. A connector according to claim 15, wherein said connector body includes a frustoconical inside wall portion cooperable with said frustoconical outer wall of said capturing member.

17. A connector according claim 8 further comprising a retaining member disposed within said passage, said retaining member having a radially inwardly projecting edge adapted to engage the outer wall of the associated fluid line.

18. A connector adapted for use with an associated fluid line having an inside wall and an outside wall, said connector comprising:

a connector body having a first end adapted to receive the associated fluid line, a second end opposite said first end, a passage extending through said connector body between said first and second ends, and a shoulder within said passage between said first and second ends;

a capturing member supported on said connector body, said capturing member adapted to engage the outside wall of the associated fluid line to retain the associated fluid line in said passage;

a sealing member disposed within said passage and suitable for forming a fluid-tight seal between said connector body and the associated fluid line;

a stiffening member having a sleeve portion and a flange portion, said stiffening member is positioned within said passage such that said flange portion is adjacent said shoulder, said sleeve portion dimension to be received within the inside wall of the associated fluid line; and,

an indicator disposed within said passage and adapted to indicate that the associated fluid line has been received a predetermined distance into said passage.

19. A connector according to claim 18, wherein said indicator is disposed along at least a portion of one of said flange portion and said sleeve portion of said stiffening member.

20. A connector according to claim 19, wherein said indicator includes a window extending through said stiffening member.

21. A method of installing a connector on an end of an associated fluid line, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a connector having a connector body with a passage dimensioned to receive the associated fluid line, a capturing member supported on said connector body and suitable for retaining the associated fluid line in said passage, a sealing member disposed within a said passage and suitable for forming a fluid-tight seal between said connector body and the associated fluid line, a stiffening member disposed within said passage of said connector body, and an indicator adapted to indicate that the associated fluid line has been received a predetermined distance into said passage;

inserting the end of the associated fluid line into said passage of said connector body; and,

observing said indicator to thereby show the end of the associated fluid line extending a predetermined distance into said passage.

22. A method according to claim 21, wherein said indicator includes a window extending through a portion of said stiffening member, and said step of observing includes visually inspecting the associated fluid line through said window.

23. A method according to claim 21, wherein said passage extending through said connector body between first and second open ends, the associated fluid line being received into said passage through said first open end, and said step of observing includes visually inspecting said indicator through said second open end.